

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 INRE-00 /045 W
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O P 200915Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6817

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD M/S MIGHTY

REF: A. SINGAPORE 4351 B. MEDAN 0401 (NOTAL) C. MEDAN 403(NOTAL)

1. AS INDICATED REF A, M/S MIGHTY CALLED AT MEDAN/BELAWAN. ON NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 18 REFUGEES ON SHIP SENT LETTER TO AMCONSUL MEDAN REPORTING PLIGHT ON SHIP AND ASKING FOR EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES (REF B). AT MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 19 SHIP WITH REFUGEES STILL ON BOARD SAILED, HAVING BEEN GIVEN SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND MEDICINE BY NORTH SUMATRA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. SHIP REPORTEDLY BOUND FOR PENANG, PORT KLANG, KARACHI , AND EUROPE.

2. UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR NEWSOM MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS THIS CASE AND OVERALL REFUGEE SITUATION. SAMPATKUMAR HAD CONFLICTING REPORTS ON WHETHER MIGHTY STILL IN INDONESIA AND WHETHER REFUGEES PERMITTED TO LAND. HE HAD TAKEN UP MATTER OF LANDING PERMISSION FOR BOAT CASES WITH GOI THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WAS TOLD PRESENT ANSWER WAS NEGATIVE.

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TIVE. IT WAS INTIMATED THIS DECISION BASED ON SECURITY CONSI-

DERATIONS. GI OFFICIALS PROMISED TO RECONSIDER THIS CASE BUT SINCE SHIP WITH REFUGEES NO LONGER IN INDONESIA (REF C) THIS IN NOW DEAD ISSUE.

3. SAMPATKUMAR REQUESTED EMBASSY QUERY DEPARTMENT WHETHER USG HAS REACHED DECISION ON ALLOWING THESE REFUGEES INTO US (BASED ON BIODATA SINGAPORE PLANNING TO SEND DEPARTMENT (PARA 5 REF A). SINCE SAMPATKUMAR BELIEVED MIGHT WAS ON WAY TO PENANG HE ASKED THAT USG DECISION BE SENT TO KUALA LUMPUR AND SINGAPORE AS WELL AS JAKARTA. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO KUALA LUMPUR EITHER SEPTEMBER 21 OR 22.

4. SAMPATKUMAR OPINED VIETNAM REFUGEE FLOW AT BEST WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE AT PRESENT LEVEL AND MIGHT EVEN INCREASE BUT LITTLE CHANCE FOR DECREASE NOW. WHILE HE IS INTERESTED IN SETTLING MIGHTY CASE, HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING HUMANE PRECEDENTS FOR TREATMENT OF BOAT CASES BY GOVERNMENTS IN THIS REGION. FOR EXAMPLE, HE FELT PROMPT MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES IN INDONESIA MIGHT HELP HIM PERSUADE GOI TO TAKE MORE LIBERAL POSITION. (FYI: EMBASSY NOW MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICALS FOR VIETNAM REFUGEES IN INDONESIA FOLLOWING WHICH THOSE AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL SHOULD BE ON MOVE SOON.) SAMPATKUMAR ALSO SAID GERMANS HAVE AGREED TO "QUOTA" OF TWENTY WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE ALL REFUGEES AS WELL AS BOAT CASES; HE HOPES AFTER THIS QUOTE USED TO PERSUADE GERMANS TO ACCEPT MORE.
NEWSOM

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